

Annex to the letter dated 31 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Press release

Over the past few days, the visual, audio and print media have carried statements made by some Yemeni officials and some fabricated reports alleging that the Houthis are receiving support from Iran via Eritrea.

Eritrea has taken note of this oft-repeated and tedious narrative in which the country is portrayed as hosting Israeli bases, on the one hand, and hosting Iranian bases, on the other. Eritrea also knows very well which intelligence agencies are disseminating that scenario. Those agencies are feeding the scenario to newspapers, writers and electronic sites that have no regard for professional ethics and credibility, in order to ensure that, through those writers and media, it reaches persons who hold official positions. Those officials, either out of ignorance or with intention, then repeat those lies so many times that some begin to believe them.

In that connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea:

1. Regrets that the conflict in Yemen has become so complicated. It hopes that its causes will be resolved and that security, peace and stability will once more be restored in Yemen.
2. Affirms that Eritrea is more concerned about the restoration of security and stability in Yemen than other States owing to the historical and neighbourly ties between the two countries and their peoples.
3. Supports the territorial integrity of Yemen and the unity of its people. It recognizes only the legitimate leadership of Yemen, as established in accordance with the constitution.
4. It denies the reports, statements and claims that have been repeatedly circulated regarding an Iranian, Houthi, Israeli or other foreign presence in the territorial waters or land territory of Eritrea.
5. Affirms that recent statements attributed to Yemeni officials are simply part of the rabid intelligence campaign that is being waged against Eritrea and aimed at defaming it, particularly in the Arab world. It furthermore affirms that those claims are false, fabricated and without a shred of truth.
6. Draws attention to the fact that many newspapers, electronic sites and writers have treated those claims as though they were true. Analyses are now being built on those claims that are misleading Arab readers, first and foremost.
7. Recalls that it had summoned the Chargé d'affaires of the Yemeni Embassy in Asmara and asked him to provide a clarification regarding the latest statements made by Yemeni officials. The Chargé d'affaires denied the veracity of those statements and said that no one had contacted the Yemeni Embassy in Asmara to verify their accuracy. He also affirmed that his Embassy had nothing to do with those statements.

8. Reiterates that the islands, ports and land territory of Eritrea are not for sale or rent. Eritrea is the only State in the region that, since gaining its independence, has refused to accept foreign intervention or host foreign bases, troops and warships.

9. Affirms that Eritrea does not believe in alliances, does not enter into them or support them and is not a member of one.

10. Reaffirms that its doors are open to any Arab media organization that would like to investigate for itself the veracity of those reports. All they have to do is apply for an entry visa at the nearest Eritrean embassy.

11. Draws attention once again to the long-standing position of Eritrea regarding security in the Red Sea, along which it has the longest coastline of any State; it is thus aware of the Red Sea's importance to the region and the world. Eritrea has remained in contact with the other Red Sea littoral States in order to exchange opinions and ideas, with a view to arriving at common vision for ensuring security and safety in the Red Sea basin.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asmara, 31 March 2015